

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 16-29 were pending. Claims 7-9 and 16-26 were withdrawn. Claims 1, 3 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 28 and 29 are independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims are only intended to expedite prosecution of allowed subject matter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present previously pending claims in one or more continuation applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The Office Action states that claims 5-6, 10 and 28-29 are allowed.

Withdrawn Claims

Withdrawn claims 7-9 depend from independent claim 5, which has been allowed.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of withdrawn claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3 and 27 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution of the allowed claims.

Applicants do not admit that that the cancelled claims are unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0136962 (Miyajima et al.) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,081,305 (Sato et al.).

Accordingly, Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Because the reasons set forth above are sufficient to overcome the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants do not address some of the assertions set forth therein and/or other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections. Nonetheless, Applicants reserve the right to address such assertions and/or to present other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections in any future paper and/or proceeding.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0006, ext. 1014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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